

# NEWSLETTER

December 2018



## Vision

We envisage a world where all human beings realize their full potential and live with dignity and respect. We strive to pursue our mission with excellence and compassion.

## Mission

AAll's mission is to work towards the betterment of the quality of life of deprived children and their families, the physically challenged, destitute seniors and communities living in poverty and injustice. Special focus is placed on empowering women because, we believe that, equipped with proper resources, they can realize their full potential, exercise greater choice to participate, contribute and become catalysts for change in their communities.

*“Let us restore, rebuild, rehabilitate, and reconstruct humanity”*



# From The Executive Director's Desk



Dear Friends,

Thank you for making 2018 yet another remarkable year for Ability Aids!

This August, Kerala suffered one of the most devastating floods of the century resulting in widespread flooding, destruction of houses, infrastructure, resources, and loss of life. Over 1 million people were living in relief camps, close to 500 were reported dead.

Ability Aids responded to the disaster almost immediately by providing those staying in relief camps with emergency kits. The next step was to rehabilitate those who survived the flood. Need assessments and surveys were done to identify the most marginalized communities. Based on the results, a detailed strategy was developed for implementing relief and rehabilitation efforts. Special emphasis was placed on helping the worst affected people from deprived communities, women, and the physically challenged.

There is a lot more work to be done, in the coming months, as the state rebuilds all that was lost. The spirit will surely continue to flourish. We are confident you will continue to open your hearts out to people who have suffered such devastating loss. In the meantime, our work of helping children, the elderly and communities in distress is stronger than ever.



As I reflect over the past year, I wish every one of you could see firsthand the impact and the transformational change our combined efforts bring to communities and the difference it makes to people's lives.

Being able to create such an impact is the greatest motivation for me as well as the people in our organization working tirelessly for this cause. We look forward to meeting the challenges in the coming year with renewed resolve!

We could not have done any of this without your never-ending backing. Your support makes our passion for helping people stronger and I hope that together we can make 2019 a year of hope and greater peace!

As the year draws to a close, let's flip the pages and have a look at what we have together been able to accomplish...

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and an amazing year ahead!

Blessings, love, peace and joy,  
Connie Newton, on behalf of Team AAIL







# Helping Hands...

(Flood Rehabilitation Work)







# Environment

AAll has always been in the forefront to address environment related issues. One of the flagship projects has been to address waste management in Shankhumukham, a beach in Trivandrum district, by providing eco friendly waste disposal systems, a Material Recovery Facility, and beautification of the beach.





# A Getaway Trip

We believe that it is important for children to get away from their mundane lives and let their hair down! Seeing them enjoy themselves was a sight to behold!







AKHILA



JOMOL



SWATHY



MEENU



NAVATHEJ



ASHNA



DIVYA



SOPHIA

## A Home for the Homeless...

*"Poverty is like a punishment for a crime you didn't commit"*

Our beneficiaries come from financially disadvantaged backgrounds with families struggling to even have one square meal a day.

One of our many initiatives is to give them shelter by putting a roof over their heads.



# Fun and Learning...

## Camps

Summer camps always provides children a platform to express their talents and learn new skills. The aim over the past 29 years has been to conduct every camp in an innovative manner with the aim of turning out well-rounded individuals. Our children who come from very troubled backgrounds often find these camps a place to forget all their sorrows. AAIL has always placed special emphasis on children's health. Consequently, we make sure that they are given wholesome, nutritious food and that every one of them receives a comprehensive medical check up.

This year we conducted 3 camps, Parwaz, Champions, and Vorreiter, to provide them with new vistas of creativity and opportunity!







# Parwaz

(Camp for young adults)

The aim of this camp was to arm them with resources to meet the challenges of everyday life.

“Let their wings take flight and dreams soar high!”







# Champions

(Camp for young children)

Children all over are instinctively attracted to superheroes. To inspire our children we used superheroes to help them navigate a universe fraught with thrills and danger.







# Vorreiter

(camp for children who have completed their schooling)

Life is a climb!

It was a joy to see children we have known as kids and witnessed their struggle climb the ladder of life successfully. It made us feel like a proud parent!





# Child Support

When families don't have enough money, they cannot invest in their children and their future becomes bleak.

AAll strongly believes in the importance of education. To motivate our children to stay in school, they are provided with monthly grants, books, uniforms, supplementary nutrition, and medical support.





# Geriatric Support



With the growing number of senior citizens in our expanding society, abuse and neglect of the elderly is a widespread issue. AAll sponsors destitute senior citizens by providing them with monthly grants as well as provisions, assistive devices like wheelchairs and other material requirements like beds, waterbeds, mattresses.



# Community Development Projects

**“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community “**

Community Development Projects seek to empower individuals and groups of people with the skills they need to effect change within their communities. Aryanad, Poonthura and Karipur are areas where we have been able to bring about substantial change on the ground.





# Marching to Success!

“One child saved is one family secure in the future!”

A snapshot of our kids on the threshold of graduation...



**Ansa VY**



**Arya A**



**Ajith Babu**



**Sruthi J**



**Rakhi PS**



**Dini US**

# Success!

“A job is the best cure for poverty!”

A look at some of our brood who have tasted success...



**Jeena Babu**  
Respiratory Technician



**Stella D**  
Dental operating room assistant



**Tincymol**  
Nurse



**Vijitha MV**  
Nurse



**Aparana V**  
Cardiac Laboratory Technician



**Greeshma Lalu**  
Nurse

Lot more...



# Testimonials

(A note from Arthur Jansen, Chairman, Santhosham Foundation and an advisor to our Board)

The Santhosham Foundation in the Netherlands supports the work of Ability Aids India International for many years now. Communicating with Connie and her team by email is one thing. But meeting them in person is a real privilege. For the fourth time I visited Kerala and AAIL in February. We met Connie Newton, Joseph and the fantastic team talking about all the things that we have in common: working hard to support children on their way to a bright future, elderly people in need of care and attention, communities in need of empowerment. And, we visited a number of families, in circumstances we don't know in our country, which was really moving. We participated in a big party in the Community Centre in Aryanad, with singing, dancing and a bowling game... We also visited the new social and environmental project: a real honor to be asked by the government to execute it. Above all we experienced so much warmth and friendship. We felt then and feel now so very rich.... And, really amazing what a small group of devoted people can achieve! It makes you proud and humble at the same time. We are so very committed to keep supporting AAIL any way we can, hopefully for many years to come! Ability Aids India International: congratulations and good luck!



## Familial Visit





# Virtual Volunteering

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart”

Virtual volunteering provides a platform for all those people who wish to help us by contributing their digital skill set and knowledge. We have many volunteers from around the world who have contributed to our work immensely. We appreciate them for their effort and time.

Some of our Virtual Volunteers...



Being a virtual volunteer at AAIL is a very fulfilling and rewarding experience. I am so happy that I can use my skills as an engineer to help the organization achieve their goal of uplifting and empowering children, women and the most destitute communities.

It has given me immense pleasure and satisfaction to know that I have been of some help in transforming so many lives and that I am doing my bit towards creating a better world!

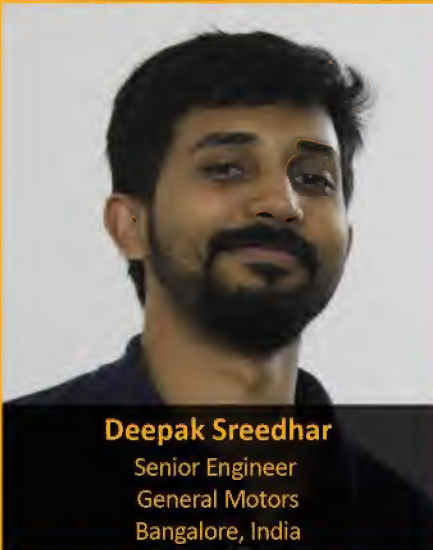
**Tarun**

Grad Student  
Carlson School of Management  
Minneapolis, USA



**Kavya**

Grad Student  
Carlson School of Management  
Minneapolis, USA



**Deepak Sreedhar**

Senior Engineer  
General Motors  
Bangalore, India



**Nandita Sridhar**

Experienced Associate  
PricewaterhouseCooper LLC  
Chicago, USA





**Why wait? ...  
You can make  
a difference  
NOW**

***"Even a small act of kindness can make  
a big difference in someone's world"***

Funds in any currency can be sent by check to Ability Aids India International. Kindly see to it that checks as well as non-monetary gifts sent by mail are registered.

- \$40 per month for a child or a senior citizen to be sponsored.
- \$50 per month for a Life Enrichment center to be sponsored.
- \$350 for an income Generation Project to be sponsored.
- Make a special donation for any amount

If you reside in the US and would like a tax receipt, please make your checks payable to the 'Global India Fund' and mark it as 'Fund for Ability Aids India International' along with a note with your name, postal address and email Id. Kindly mail the check and the note to : Global India Fund, Amita Vyas, 5162, 38th St., N. Arlington, VA 22207. A tax receipt will be sent to you by mail.





*We wish you a*  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**&**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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